

Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to cover all oral anti-cancer drugs.

Hasler

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20022484

2002

HC 1043/DI 84+



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation requiring the Medicare program to cover all oral anti-cancer drugs.

Whereas, Cancer is disproportionately a disease of the elderly, with more than half of all cancer diagnoses occurring in persons age 65 or older;

Whereas, These patients are dependent on the federal Medicare program for funding for the provision of cancer care;

Whereas, Treatment with anti-cancer drugs is the cornerstone of modern cancer care, and elderly cancer patients must have access to potentially life extending drug therapy;

Whereas, The Medicare program's coverage of drugs is limited to injectable drugs or oral drugs that have an injectable version;

Whereas, The nation's investment in biomedical research has begun to bear fruit with a compelling array of new oral anti-cancer drugs that are less toxic, more effective, and more cost effective than existing therapies;

Whereas, Because such drugs do not have an injectable equivalent, they are not covered by Medicare;

Whereas, Noncoverage of these important new products



leaves many Medicare beneficiaries confronting the choice of either substantial out-of-pocket personal costs or selection of more toxic, less effective treatments that are covered by the Medicare program;

Whereas, Medicare's failure to cover oral anti-cancer drugs leaves at risk many beneficiaries suffering from blood related cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma, as well as cancers of the breast, lungs, and prostate; and

Whereas, Certain members of the United State Congress have recognized the necessity of Medicare coverage for all oral anti-cancer drugs and introduced legislation in the 107th Congress to achieve that result (H.R. 1624; S. 913): Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly respectfully urges
- 2 the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation requiring the
- 3 Medicare program to cover all oral anti-cancer drugs.
- 4 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 5 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President
- 6 of the United States, the members of the United States Congress, the
- 7 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the administrator of the
- 8 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

